MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

A cease-fire announced by the National Dialogue Conference late on 13 March was still holding the following morning despite intermittent gunfire, Beirut radio reported. The agreement, which was broadcast by the radio, said the Security Arrangements Committee would meet shortly to consolidate the cease-fire and to separate the combatants by establishing buffer zones. Committees to monitor the cease-fire will be attached to the Security Arrangements Committee, the airport and port will be reopened, and propaganda campaigns among the combatant parties will be stopped. The conference took note of the pledge by the parties concerned to instruct their fighters to abide by the cease-fire even if their areas come under fire, thereby allowing the Security Arrangements Committee to deal with violations.

A Lebanese Forces source cited by Voice of Lebanon radio said his side agrees "in principle" to the cease-fire and most of the related arrangements but added that the Lebanese Forces refuse to withdraw from the contact lines because this would place them in Christian residential areas.

In other developments at Lausanne, the conferees submitted and discussed various proposals for the country's political future, including the Lebanese Front's plan for a federal system, Beirut radio reported. Former Prime Minister Rashid Karami rejected this proposal, the radio said, and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri urged that President Amin al-Jumayyil be brought to account for violating the Constitution. Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam told the conferees to abandon any ideas that do not lead to positive results; everyone must make concessions and the conference in Lausanne should continue until agreement is reached on a comprehensive solution, the radio noted. Stressing the need for dialogue and a genuine cease-fire, Khaddam warned that if the conference fails, Lebanon will "cease to exist."

Outside the conference hall, President al-Jumayyil held "very important" talks with Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt, according to Beirut radio. Earlier, Junblatt, at a news conference reported by the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, reaffirmed his demand that Al-Jumayyil be put on trial.

Syria

Soviet-Syrian Communique — A joint communique issued at the end of CPSU Politburo member Geydar Aliyev's visit to Syria, carried by *PRAVDA* and Damascus television, condemned U.S. and Israeli policy toward Lebanon and hailed the abrogation of the 17 May agreement as a "great success." Noting that Aliyev and the Syrian leaders had held "a thorough exchange of opinions" on the situation in the Palestine resistance movement, the statement said the Soviet Union and Syria are convinced of the need to preserve the unity of the PLO and overcome disagreements within the organization as quickly as possible. Syria and the Soviet Union believe that implementation of the Palestinians' national aspirations is "impossible" without adhering to PNC decisions that reject the Camp David policy of separate deals, including the Reagan plan, and without close cooperation between the PLO and Syria.

Status of Rif'at al-Asad — As speculation continues over the internal situation, Paris *LE MONDE* cited reports from Damascus that Vice President Rif'at al-Asad's defense companies have been dissolved thereby depriving the president's brother of his main power base. On the other hand, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service contended that Rif'at has the upper hand over his main rival, Defense Minister Mustafa Talas, and said Western sources have reported that Rif'at controls Damascus from the security viewpoint. Meanwhile, Damascus radio noted that Rif'at al-Asad held talks with Aliyev before the latter's departure on 13 March. The Soviet official congratulated Rif'at on his new post and on the trust placed in him by President Hafiz al-Asad, the radio said.

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in the YAR on 14 March after holding talks with King Fahd in Saudi Arabia, SPA reported. The PLO and Saudi leaders discussed Arab and Palestinian developments, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. Meanwhile, an "authoritative" Palestinian source cited by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio disclosed that representatives of Fatah, the PFLP, and the DFLP will meet soon in Aden to prepare a "working formula" to regulate relations between the Palestinian resistance groups. The participants also will discuss the possibility of forming a delegation to visit Moscow and will prepare for the extraordinary PNC session.

Iran-Iraq War

Arab Emergency Meeting — The Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting called by Iraq began in Baghdad on 14 March with the participation of representatives from the PLO and all Arab countries except Libya and Syria, INA announced. Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, in a speech at the opening session reported by INA, viewed the meeting as a test of the Arab countries' ability to stand together in the face of a war that may expand "farther than we imagine." The meeting then went into closed session to discuss the dangers posed to the entire region by the escalating Iranian aggression, INA added. A five-member committee composed of representatives from Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the PLO, and Iraq was formed to prepare a final statement, sources from the Arab League General Secretariat told INA. Earlier, the Saudi foreign minister called on Iran to end the war with Iraq and to make this meeting the beginning of a "new era" in Iranian-Arab relations, INA reported.

Military Developments — "Tens" of Iranians were wounded in the second Iraqi chemical attack against the Majnun region in 2 days, IRNA reported on 13 March. Two regions in the operational area were contaminated by the attack which coincided with the arrival of a UN team to investigate Iraq's "blatant violation" of international law, IRNA added. In a 13 March statement issued by the Iranian War Information Headquarters and broadcast by Tehran radio, Iran urged the UN team to adjust its schedule in order to inspect the results of this Iraqi chemical bombing in Majnun and the vicinity of Hawr al-Huwayzah "as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, an Iraqi attempt to recapture the Majnun region by firing "thousands" of artillery shells and mortars against the Iranian positions there was successfully "quashed," IRNA announced. This was the heaviest shelling in the area since the start of the Khaybar operation, IRNA added.

On Iraq's part, a military communique carried by Baghdad radio on 13 March reported the interception and destruction of an Iranian force attempting to attack positions east of Basra.

Tunisia

President Habib Bourguiba has decided to refer former Interior Minister Driss Guiga to the Supreme Court on charges of high treason, Justice Minister Mohamed Chaker announced in a statement broadcast by Tunis radio. Bourguiba made this decision after reviewing the report of the committee investigating responsibility for the "incidents" in December and January, the statement noted. However, Guiga left Tunisia after his dismissal and is staying in the United States, according to KUNA. In another development, the Defense Ministry announced that two Tunisian soldiers were executed after being found guilty of leaking classified information to a foreign embassy, KUNA reported.

Afghanistan

Army Desertions — "Wide-scale desertions and mutinies" within the Army have occurred since the extension of military service from 3 to 4 years for all units based in Kabul, AFP reported citing Western diplomats in Kabul. Such an extension will affect the entire Army since combat units stationed in the provinces are recalled to the capital after 3 years, AFP added. According to the Western diplomats, there are also "increasing signs" of preparations for a new Soviet offensive in the strategic Panjshir Valley and "several" SU-25 fighter bombers reportedly have arrived at an airbase halfway between this valley and Kabul.

Foreign Relations — A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs criticized the "provocative and interventionist" statements made against Afghanistan by the PRC president during his recent visit to Pakistan, Kabul radio announced.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'Wide-scale Desertions' From Army Reported

BK131258 Hong Kong AFP in English 1244 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Islamabad, March 13 (AFP) — Reports are reaching here of wide-scale desertions and mutinies within the ranks of the Afghan Army since the authorities announced last Thursday the extension of military service to four years for all units based in Kabul. Western diplomats in Kabul said a mutiny broke out within hours of the announcement at the headquarters of the 8th Division of the Army at Kargha, seven kms (four miles) northwest of the capital. The sound of tanks, artillery exchanges and automatic fire could be heard for two hours as soldiers and officers belonging to the minority "Khalq" faction of the Afghan Communist Party fought supporters of the majority "Parsham," backed by the divisional party commissars. At the same time rebels, probably from nearby Paghman, attacked the garrison with mortars and kept up a barrage of fire, which enabled deserters to escape.

Within Kabul itself several Army posts were unmanned during the night and about 50 soldiers in charge of airport security deserted. Another 25 walked out in the university area, and two posts near the Soviet Embassy were destroyed in a joint action by rebels and the soldiers manning them.

To the west of the capital 15 soldiers were killed in an attack on their post, and two other posts were found empty on Friday morning. Western diplomats said the Soviet and Afghan authorities feared an increase in these types of mutinies and desertions in the coming weeks.

The extension from three years to four will affect the entire Army because combat units fighting in the provinces are to be recalled to the capital after three years. An increasing number of the 40,000 government troops are openly collaborating with rebel forces. According to the diplomats, at the beginning of February three officers guarding an arms factory in Baghlan Province in the north allowed in a group of rebels and let them load hundreds of Kalashnikov assault rifles onto their horses and dromedaries. For the first time this year, Soviet trucks bringing in oil supplies came under heavy attack in the mountain passes and never reached the capital. A traveller said he had seen about 20 trucks burning on the main road south of the Salang tunnel on Saturday.

The diplomats also said there were increasing signs that preparations were being made for a new Soviet offensive in the strategic Panjshir Valley, which has been held by rebels led by Ahmad Shah Masud since the beginning of the fighting. Most old men, women and children have been evacuated from the valley to Kabul and Mr Masud has called on rebels operating in the surrounding area to reinforce defence on access roads into the valley.

The Soviet decision to increase its strength at Onawa, a Soviet-Afghan garrison on the southern entry to the valley, and parachute commando units into the surrounding hills and neighbouring valleys of Andarab and Nijrab, follows the failure of negotiations with Mr Masud to prolong a cease-fire in the Panjshir. The cease-fire came into effect last winter after the sixth Red Army offensive against the rebel stronghold ended in failure.

Diplomats also reported the arrival of several SU-25 fighter bombers at Bagram air base, half way between the Panjshir and Kabul, These aircraft are particularly well adapted for operations on uneven terrain.

BBC on Clash in Kabul

TA131534 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Western diplomats in Islamabad say there was a big clash in the Afghan capital, Kabul, last week, which they described as the most spectacular outbreak of fighting in the city for more than 6 months. They say the incident may have involved a mutiny by government troops who are angered by changes in the conscription laws. The changes are also said to have led to some desertions from the Army, as Ian Howe now reports from Islamabad:

[Begin recording] The Western diplomats said that for 2 hours after curfew last Thursday people all over Kabul could hear the continuous sound of artillery rocket and mortar fire. The fighting was going on at the headquarters of the 8th Division of the Afghan Army, a few miles to the northwest of the capital. The diplomats said that according to some accounts, the Afghan resistance staged the main attack on the headquarters, but other sources have said that fighting began with a riot among the troops who had been angered by an announcement earlier in the evening of changes in the conscription laws. The main change lengthened the term of service for men stationed in Kabul from 3 to 4 years. The diplomats said that the riot apparently developed quickly into a chaotic mutiny, in which tank cannon fire was exchanged. According to this version of what happened, the clash attracted the attention of local guerrillas who mortared the headquarters and provided covering fire for deserting soldiers. The diplomats said that the revised conscription laws provoked widespread desertions that night from units stationed in other parts of Kabul. [end recording]

Mujahidin Down Soviet Helicopter in Kandahar

BK110646 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin reportedly shot down a Soviet helicopter gunship in the (Takhtapul) area of Kandahar Province on 1 March. According to a delayed report, during its operation in aiding the Soviet mobile force, the helicopter was attacked by the mujahidin in the area. The Soviet force retreated toward its camp after the helicopter was shot down. The mujahidin also killed a number of Soviet-Karmal troops in and around Kabul in different operations.

Soviet-Supervised Nationalities Units Set Up

BK130432 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] A special cell has been set up in Kabul to divide Afghanistan on the basis of nationalities. According to a news agency report, the cell will run under the supervision of Soviet

advisers. In addition to the cell in Kabul, offices also have been opened in Kandahar, Herat, Paktia, and Qonduz Provinces.

Spokesman Criticizes PRC President's Remarks

LD131848 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Replying to a question from a BAKHTAR reporter concerning statements by the Chinese president during his visit to Pakistan, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said:

PRC President Li Xiannian recently made an official visit to Pakistan. His provocative and interventionist statements in Islamabad against our homeland, our revolution, and our people again proved this clear fact that visits by imperialist personalities and their hegemonist collaborators to Pakistan over the last few years have been mainly for the purpose of intensifying aggression against the DRA and further encouraging Pakistan to fulfill its role in the imperialist-hegemonist conspiracy against our country.

The people of the world know that from the very beginning of the victory of the national democratic April Revolution in Afghanistan, when Pakistan was transformed into a springboard of aggression against the DRA, the PRC — after U.S. imperialism — played a major role in planning and continuing the undeclared war against the DRA. Collusion by Chinese hegemonism with international imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, aimed at crushing social and national liberation movements, transformed Beijing into a follower of Washington in implementing the imperialist international political-military strategy and drew it in armed hostility and antagonism against fundamental changes in the interest of the toiling masses in revolutionary Afghanistan.

Following in Mr Shultz's footsteps, PRC Minister of Foreign Affairs Wu Xueqian arrived in Pakistan immediately after the visit by the U.S. secretary of state. Now, too, the visit by the Chinese president has taken place after a visit to the United States by PRC Premier Zhao Ziyang, 7-16 January, during which collaboration between U.S. and Chinese hegemonism including continuation and intensification of the imperialist-hegemonist undeclared war against the DRA was discussed. He visited Pakistan this time to encourage the Pakistani militarists more than ever before, by promising further military aid, to continue the role which is against the interests of the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan and which is also detrimental to peace and security in the region.

The hypocritical statements by the PRC president cannot deceive anyone because his hostile attitude for continuing bloodshed in our land is quite obvious from his words. As a major collaborator of international imperialism, headed by the United States, China is directly responsible for the continuation of bloodshed and destruction in our country. Everyone knows that a large quantity of weapons, equipment, and money from China are brought to Pakistan every year for the purpose of training, arming, and financing the counterrevolutionary murderer bands. And, Chinese instructors play a major role in training counterrevolutionary elements who are then sent to our homeland for murder and plunder.

If the United States and China are truly interested in our people's prosperity, they can, by putting an end to the undeclared war against the DRA, provide the necessary grounds for maintaining peace in our country and allowing our people, with revoutionary work and struggle, to build a new society in Afghanistan, to provide for their own prosperity and that of future generations.

While vigorously criticizing the provocative and interfering statements by the Chinese president, the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs loudly declares that the courageous people of our country, who have linked their fate with the irreversible fate of the revolution in our country, are ready to continue their patriotic struggles until the total elimination of the last vestiges of the agent counterrevolutionary bands.

Gandhi Denies Pakistani Lead in Atomic Energy

BK140850 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, has denied that Pakistan is ahead of India in the field of atomic energy. She told the Lok Sabha today that India is self-reliant in the entire nuclear fuel cycle. This includes generation of electricity from atomic energy and its use in industrial, agricultural, and health spheres. India conducts advanced research in all significant aspects of peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Mrs Gandhi reiterated that there is no danger to the Tarapur atomic power station from nonavailability of enriched uranium. She said France is supplying enriched uranium for this power station within the framework of the 1963 Indo-U.S. cooperation agreement.

The house was informed that the rare earths complex producing raw materials for atomic energy is almost ready. Its different units will start production within 1 year.

Bangalore Termed 'Peaceful' 13 March

BK140326 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Bangalore was peaceful last night. Dusk to dawn curfew is enforced in five police areas of the city. Police fired six rounds in four different places in the day to control the violent mob when lathi charge and tear gas [word indistinct] failed. Two persons were injured. The mob again tried to attack the residence of a Janata Party member of legislative assembly.

The chief minister, Mr Ramkrishna Hegde, has appealed to all sections of the people to maintain peace and harmony. He said in a statement that the government is making all efforts to check antisocial elements and protect the property of the citizens. The president of the Karnataka Pradesh [state] Congress-I, Mr K.H. Patil, has alleged that the state government has failed to maintain law and order. He also appealed to the public to maintain mormalcy.

Update Report on Singh Assassination Attempt

BK140352 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] The assailant who made an attempt on the life of the former Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, has been identified as Mohinder Singh of a village near Mukhtasar in Faridpur District. An official spokesman told our Chandigarh correspondent this morning that six persons were injured in the incident.

Congress-I Members Protest Bengal Budget

BK091654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Fresh taxes to net 75 crore rupees have been proposed in the West Bengal Budget,which was presented to the State Assembly by the finance minister, Mr Ashok Mitra, today. The budget shows a deficit of 23.23 crore rupees. Fresh taxes imposed on items included motor cars, scooters, tv sets, and tea auctions.

The opposition Congress-I members today held demonstrations outside the assembly premises and raised slogans against the budget, which they described as antipeople. The demonstration was a sequel to suspensions and subsequent eviction by security guards of the Congress-I members of Legislative Assembly yesterday. Several Congress-I members were seriously injured in yesterday's lathi [baton] charge. At one stage today, some of the Congress-I members entered the house as the finance minister was presenting budget and rushed toward the speaker's desk raising slogans against the left front government. The speaker immediately adjourned the house and left his chair. Following this there was pandemonium and a scuffle between the members of the CPI-M and Congress-I when blows were freely exchanged.

The leader of the Congress-I, Mr Abdus Sattar, alleged that the members of his party were mercilessly beaten and dragged by the ruling party members and the security staff.

In a memorandum submitted to the state governor, Mr Sattar described the happenings in the assembly as inhuman and unprecedented. He said the speaker's decision to suspend the eight Congress-I members was to forestall a no confidence motion against the speaker and also to prevent them from casting their votes in the coming Rajya Sabha election.

The chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, described the Congress-I action as unconstitutional.

All India Radio correspondent reports that the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi; the union finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee; and the home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi had telephonic talks with Mr Jyoti Basu about yesterday's incident.

The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, also spoke to the speaker of the state assembly over the issue.

Agreement Delimits Maritime Boundary With Burma

BK131438 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] India and Burma have agreed on delimitation of their maritime boundary in the Andaman Sea, the Coco Channel and the Bay of Bengal. A draft agreement relating to the delimitation along with relevent charts have been initialled in New Delhi by the foreign secretary, Mr Rasgotra, and the Burmese ambassador, Mr U Ko Ko Lay.

Zia Stresses Patience, Restraint Regarding Afghanistan

BK131112 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said Pakistan will continue to observe patience and restraint despite provocations from the Karmal administration and will persevere in its efforts for a peaceful political solution to the Afghan problem. The possibilities for such a solution still exist.

Addressing a large gathering of tribal representatives at the governor house in Peshawar today, the president expressed the hope that they would be successful in their efforts for a political solution to the Afghan problem based on the principled 4-point stand. Those four points are: withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, restoration of the independent and nonaligned status of Afghanistan, restitution of the right of the Afghan people to form the government of their own choice, and creation of conditions conducive to the return of Afghan refugees to their homes with honor and dignity. The president said a settlement based on these principles would receive endorsement of the entire world, including the Islamic Conference Organization and the Nonaligned Movement.

About the tribals' demand for granting permission to give an appropriate reply to barbaric attacks on Pakistani territory from across the border, the president said he is fully aware of their sentiments and added that although Pakistan possesses the capability to retaliate against force with force, it has been working with utmost restraint. Pakistan does not want to take any step out of provocation, which might jeopardize regional peace. Pakistan also does not want to further increase the sufferings of the Afghan refugees who have already been the victims of the tyranny and oppression of a foreign power which wants to impose on them a system devoid of religion and faith.

The president earlier met and addressed the provincial councillors.

AFP Report

OW132310 Hong Kong AFP in English 1922 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 13 (AFP) — President Mohammad Ziaul Haq today urged tribal chiefs in northwest Pakistan not to take retaliatory action for Afghan air raids, because (?he) was still working toward a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem.

Tribal chiefs (?of the) Jirga (assembly) here wanted to be allowed to hit back at Afghanistan following recent air raids in which civilians had been killed and property damaged.

But General Zia, on a three-day visit to the region bordering Afghanistan, urged the chiefs to be patient. He said any retaliation would add to the sufferings of (?Afghans) who were already undergoing great hardships.

Pakistan believed there was still a chance of a peaceful solution to the problem, and did not want to destroy peace in the regionby giving a "military response to provocation" from across its western borders, Gen. Zia said.

But he warned that there should be no doubt about Pakistan's ability to give an effective reply to such provocations.

Spokesman Voices Concern Over Iran-Iraq War

BK131550 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said that Pakistan is gravely concerned about the present situation of the Iran-Iraq war. It considers the bombing of civilian areas regrettable and wants it stopped. The spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that Pakistan desires an end to this war between the two Islamic states. The spokesman said we are deeply concerned about the possibility of expansion of this war because the fighting is not only against the interests of the two countries but against the interests of region as well.

About the alleged use of chemical weapons, the spokesman said that as a signatory of the 1925 convention which bans the use of chemical weapons, Pakistan will definitely oppose any contravention of this convention. The spokesman recalled that a UN delegation is visiting the region for investigations in this connection.

Answering a question, the spokesman said Pakistan is ready to make all possible efforts to end the war between the two brotherly countries. Pakistan has always done its best to end this war and it will continue its efforts.

DRA General Defects, Discusses Chemical Weapons

BK120850 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] One more senior military officer of the Kabul administration has defected and crossed into Pakistan. His name is Brigadier General (Wade), and he was in charge of the chemical department in the 99th rocket unit of the Afghan air defense. In addition to his education in the military university, Brig Gen (Wade) has also undergone a rocket course conducted by the Soviet experts.

In an inverview, Brig Gen (Wade) said so far the Soviet forces have used two types of chemical weapons of phosphorus and sulfur, in addition to napalm bombs. He especially mentioned the Ghazni, Herat, Salang tunnel, Urgun, and Kandahar areas where these chemical weapons have been used.

JASARAT Assails Martial Law, Urges Shari'a

GF131746 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 3 Mar 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Shari'a Subject to Martial Law: How Long Should This Situation Last?"]

[Excerpt] It is a great national tragedy that Islam is being used in our country to strengthen dictatorship and its roots. All dictators who have come to power in Pakistan have used the banner of Islam. The rulers of this country seem to be well aware of the fact that without championing Islam they cannot hope to last even for 1 day. Hence, they shout the name of Islam day and night. They begin every speech with the word Islam and end every speech with the same word.

However, all laws that are being introduced today emanate from martial law. The dark shadow of martial law has remained over our heads for the past 25 years. However, our rulers, who use martial law as their main support, have always pushed shari'a and the social and economic systems prescribed by Islam. They have always claimed to be mere instruments for implementing the Islamic system in this country. They have always claimed that God Himself had especially chosen them for this august office and that God has instructed them not to give up martial law.

The fact is that our autocratic rulers have been using Islam as a shield and a charm. However, the Pakistani people are much wiser today than they were before and they can no longer be decieved with such slogans. The Pakistani people simply want the Islamic system of shari'a to be introduced. They cannot bear the present conditions any longer.

As the secretary general of the Jama'at-e Islami (JI), Qazi Husain Ahmad, has rightly said, shari'a today has been subjected to martial law. Martial law can change every rule of shari'a, but no order of martial law can be challenged in a shari'a court. The situation is too irreligious to bear anymore. Today there is the British-made law in this country or, if it is not that,it is martial law. The British-made law has been valid for the past 37 years, while martial law has been valid for 25 years of that period. We founded Pakistan to build a society run under shari'a. However, despite the 37 years of waiting, the British-made law and martial law continue to govern us. Pakistan has already suffered division in two parts. Shall we wait until it is divided further?

Cabinet Discusses Justice Minister's Resignation

LD141133 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] According to our correspondent, today's Cabinet session discussed the resignation of the minister of justice from his post in order that he can take part in the elections. He was thanked for his services.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,664

LD131733 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,644 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued in the Piranshah, Sar Dasht, and Marivan operational sectors between the forces of Islam and the aggressive enemy. While stopping enemy operations and fire, the fighters of Islam set fire to a number of enemy defensive positions and destroyed a number of foxholes and slit trenches. In Piranshah and Hajj 'Umran, they killed or wounded more than 35 Ba'thist Iraqi mercenaries. By sending patrol groups, the forces of Islam controlled the movements and operations of the Saddamist forces.

In the western operational sectors, the fighters of Islam continued to reinforce their defensive positions. Firing defensively in order to destroy enemy personnel and equipment and sending out patrol groups, they gained more information about the engineering activities and the stationing of Iraqi forces and inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries. In the Qasr-e Shirin region, the exchange of fire was more intense than on other fronts.

Exchanges of fire also continued in the southern fronts and were more intense in Hoseyniyyeh.

At 2300 on 11 March, a relatively intense clash took place between our powerful forces and the enemy on one of the southern fronts. At first, the clashes involved exchanges of heavy artillery and mortar fire. Then the security elements ['anasor-e ta'mini] of our forces clashed with enemy patrol units. In these operations,considerable losses and casualties were inflicted upon the Ba'thist mercenary forces of Iraq.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the heroic personnel of the Gendarmerie opened fire on the positions and fortifications of the forces of Saddam on the other side of the Arvand Rud, disrupting the movement of the Iraqi forces. By setting fire to and destroying more than 16 light and heavy weapons positions and observation posts of the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thists, our forces killed or wounded at least 10 of their soldiers.

In the Abadan operational sector, the heroic personnel of the Navy responded to the fire of the Iraqi forces, silencing their fire and killing 10 Saddamist mercenaries and destroying 3 enemy slit trenches.

During the past 24 hours, Abadan again came under the fire of the Iraqi Ba'thist criminals, as a result of which a number of houses and shops were damaged.

IRNA Reports on Majnun Shelling, Other Fighting

LD131852 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Khatim ol-Anbiya' HQ., March 13, IRNA — The battered Iraqi forces poured thousands of artillery shells and mortars on the positions of the Islamic forces in the Majnun islands, southeast of Iraq, during the preceding 48 hours, the most since the start of Operation Khaybar three weeks ago.

The enemy forces thought the Islamic forces had retreated from the islands after the rain of fire and attempted to recapture the islands. However, the Iraqi attempt was quashed.

Meanwhile, the Islamic forces destroyed a number of enemy observation posts in the Talayah front in the Khaybar operational region last night and set ablaze several enemy tanks and personnel carriers of the Iraqi 56th Armoured Brigade.

An Iranian commander said that during the past 48 hours, the Islamic forces had killed more than 150 and wounded about 400 enemy troops in the Talayah front.

Also in Val Fajr-V operational region, today in the Mehran border region of Ilam Province, more than 50 enemy soldiers were killed near the Iraqi Dakha outpost. Several tanks and vehicles and a munitions depot of the Iraqi forces were destroyed when they tried to move an armoured column in the same area.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi forces continued their shelling of the southern port cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr Monday.

Six civilians were wounded and 20 shops and homes were damaged in the shelling of Abadan and several points in the city caught fire. Also four people were wounded in Khorramshahr and some reconstructed buildings were damaged.

Guard Corps Division Commander Killed by Shrapnel

LD141145 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1116 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Brother Hajj Mohammad Ebrahim Hemmat, commander of Mohammad Rasulollah Division of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, was killed as a result of shrapnel wounds he received on one of the southern fronts. In announcing this, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps expressed its congratulations and condolences on the martyrdom of this great commander of Islam to the imam of the nation and the martyr-nurturing and steadfast nation.

Materials on Iraqi Use of Chemical Weapons

Majnun Bombing

LD131534 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Hq, March 13, IRNA — Tens of other Iranian combatants were wounded this morning in renewed Iraqi chemical bombing of the Majnun Islands, which coincided with the visit of a U.N. probe team to investigate the Baghdad regime's blatant violation of the international law.

The desperate Iraqi troops fired six rockets containing chemical substances on the Majnun Islands and contaminated two regions in the operation region.

Reports reaching here from the site of the chemical bombing said that necessary measures had been adopted to counter further contamination of the Islamic combatants. The reports also said that the wounded Iranians had gone under treatment.

The War Information HQ. today issued an announcement urging the visiting U.N. delegation to conduct an immediate tour of the Majnun Islands to inspect site of the latest Iraqi war crime.

This was the second Iraqi chemical attack against Iran's Islamic defenders in the Majnun Islands in two days. On Monday also the islands were subjected to lethal chemical bombing by the defeated Iraqi Army. However, strong wind had considerably reduced the contamination of the area. On Friday also between 500 to 600 Iranians were wounded in Iraqi chemical attacks south of the islands.

Ever since the Iraqi regime augmented its use of the internationally banned chemical weapons following the recent victorious thrust of Iran into Iraq (in Feb.), over 1,700 Iranians have been wounded. Several groups of the critically wounded Iranians have been sent abroad for further treatment. Out of the 15 Iranians sent to Austria and Sweden, six have so far passed away in Vienna and Stockholm hospitals.

As more documents and evidence surface to ascertain Iraqi use of chemical weapons, the true nature of this criminal regime is further exposed to the world.

UN Team Investigation

LD131826 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — The United Nations team of experts currently here to investigate the scope of the chemical warfare used by the Iraqi regime against the Iranian combatants, met and talked with the deputy for economic and international affairs of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Hoseyn Kazempur Ardabili, this afternoon.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official told the six-member delegation who arrived here this morning on a fact-finding mission, that Iran expected the team to inform the people of the world of realities on this issue.

Kazempur Ardabili further said that the Islamic Republic of Iran hoped that the delegation would make its report on the usage of the toxic chemicals by the Iraqi regime and depth of this crime available to the world public opinion.

The Iranian officials further added that deployment of the chemical weapons were against all basic and international laws. However, these weapons have been used by the Iraqi regime in a large scale at warfronts.

The U.N. delegation had just arrived in Tehran when the Iraqi regime once again used the toxic weapons against the Iranian combatants in Majnun islands and Hawr al-Huwayzah area.

Examination of Victims

LD132057 Tehran IRNA in English 1718 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — Members of the U.N. fact-finding mission inspected the bodies of the more than ten combatants martyred by Iraqi chemical bombings at Tehran's coroner's office.

During the visit this afternoon, the U.N. chemical experts carefully studied the bodies of the martyrs. They took skin samples from at least one of the martyrs, 20-year-old Hussein Shademani, whose half-burnt body provided sample proof of the Iraqi crime.

The body of another martyr was almost completely covered by blisters so that identification of the martyr had been made impossible.

The U.N. team also inspected the body of the 55-year-old martyr Sadeq Husseini and signs of desperate attempts by doctors to save his life were clearly visible on his body.

Iranian doctors at the coroner's office gave the necessary information to the U.N. experts during one-hour visit.

The United Nation's special fact-finding delegation arrived here this morning to study Iranian claims of Iraqi use of chemical weapons against the Islamic combatants and civilians.

IRNA on Soviet Reaction

LD132036 Tehran IRNA in English 1827 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — Following numberous Iraqi uses of chemical weapons against the forces of the Islamic Republic which has so far led to well over 1,700 injuries, the U.N. fact-finding delegation has finally arrived in Tehran.

The arrival was relatively delayed and Iran's permanent representative to the U.N. Mr. Seyed Rajaie-Khorassani has brought this point to the attention of responsible U.N. officials.

Nevertheless UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL reported from New York that the Soviet Union's deputy ambassador to the United Nations, Richard Ovinnikov, charged that the secre

tary general's decision to despatch the delegation to the Islamic Republic was illegal.

Ovinnikov said Mr Perez de Cuellar should have consulted the Security Council before making a decision on such an important matter. He said the decision was made directly by the secretary general and the Soviet Union had not been consulted.

The secretary general "can do whatever he is instructed to do by the U.N. bodies," the high ranking Soviet official said.

Since the first large-scale Iraqi chemical bombing on February 14, which has led to more than 1,700 injuries and many martyrs, the Soviet news networks, notably its official news agency TASS and its print media have been completely silent on rejecting or confirming the Iraqi use of chemical weapons, as if nothing had happened.

In fact, Mr Ovinnikov's statements at the U.N. yesterday was the first official reaction of Moscow in this regard.

The Turkish daily *GUNES* recently reported that Iraq's major chemical weapons supplies were from the Soviet Union. This claim is further supported by the fact that the Soviet Union has supplied Iraq with all kinds of surface-to-surface missiles (used against Iranian civilians) and that it has not so far denied this or other similar claims.

IRNA on Soviet Supply

LD141035 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Tokyo, march 14, IRNA — Two other Iranian combatants wounded in the Iraqi deployment of lethal chemical weapons arrived here Tuesday afternoon for treatment.

Muhammad Hussein Parvaneh, 17, and Abbas Jani, an 18-year-old Iranian combatant, are suffering from severe burns in the eyes, abdomen, genital organs and arms, wounded in chemical bombing in the Majnun Islands.

A nurse accompanying the wounded said that the two were in a better condition compared to other victims of chemical weapons transferred to Europe.

Dr Takeshi Hurayama, a skin and plastic surgery specialist, will treat the two Iranian combatants.

In another development the Japanese daily *TOKYO SHIMBUN*, carried an article based on the report of an International Red Cross Committee delegation on the deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq, which denounced the measure as a clear violation of Geneva protocol.

Expressing concern over this Iraqi measure, the daily asserted that the 1925 Geneva protocol has banned use of chemical arms.

Such statements by the Japanese daily is made at a time when most of the world mass media and printed materials confirmed deployment of chemical weapons and bombs by the Iraqi regime. In a recent report the Pugwash Conference declared that during the year 1982 some 13 countries in the world, including Iraq, employed such lethal arms, reporting that the arms had been delivered to the Baghdad regime by the Socialist Government of France.

However, in spite of evidences indicating that France and Britain have aided Iraq in securing, if not even providing, the internationally banned chemical weapons for use against Iran, Britain has repeatedly denied delivery of toxic chemical arms to the Baghdad regime.

Meanwhile Western sources believe that the Soviet Union, the main supplier of arms to the Iraqi regime, has provided the latter with chemical weapons, to which the Soviet Union has not yet responded officially.

Commander's Funeral

LD131756 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Kerman, March 13, IRNA — The Body of Mohamed Reza Moradi, a commander of a branch of the forces of Islam, who was martyred as a result of lethal Iraqi chemical bombing at the battlefronts was buried Monday morning at the martyrs cemetery of Kerman. Large number of local people attended the funeral ceremony, including Hajj Jarfari, governor general of Kerman Province, a number of ulema and members of the martyr's family, officials of revolutionary organs, commanders and personnel of disciplinary and military forces and thousands of people, who all denounced the inhumane acts and chemical bombings by Iraqi aggressors.

Statements released by the revolutionary organs of Kerman have vehemently denounced the chemical bombings of Iraq which resulted in the martyrdom or wounding of over 1,700 Islamic combatants.

Arab Foreign Ministers Baghdad Meeting Viewed

GF131020 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0746 GMT 13 Mar 84

[From Revolution Guards program]

[Text] Along with the extensive propaganda plots against the Islamic Republic, we can see concentrated efforts among the traitorous minisatans of the region to save Saddam by imposing a cease-fire. The Baghdad idol has not benefitted from the poisonous propaganda dissemination of the Zionist media against the Islamic Republic. He has also come to realize the futility of rocket attacks, bombardments of cities, the use of chemical weapons, and suicidal counterattacks to recapture important liberated regions. He, therefore, has again been forced to ask for "peace."

The Ba'thist rulers, to carry out this plot, have invited 21 Arab League member countries to hold a special foreign ministers conference in Baghdad. According to the latest report, only eight countries have responded positively to Saddam's request. The aim of the idolatrous Ba'thist regime in holding this "conference" is to raise the issue that it is portraying as the "the threat of

Iranian aggression against the Arab world!" This is an attempt to put further pressure on the Islamic Republic to negotiate an imposed peace. However, the Ba'thist regime and its supporters should understand that this attempt, like all other plots of the past, is condemned to certain defeat since in our opinion the imposed war is now at a stage that leaves no way out for Saddam and the infidel Ba'th Party but fall and destruction.

The Islamic Republic and the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran, who consider the imposed war the battle of Islam against infidelity, will never suffer the shame of collusion with the sworn enemies of Islam and the Koran. Therefore, our nation and the zealous warriors of Islam will continue the current battle until final victory is achieved and the conditions that have clearly been announced are realized. The minimum punishment for Saddam and the criminal Ba'thist gang today, owing to the innumerable crimes they have committed against the two innocent nations of Iran and Iraq, is the execution of Saddam by firing squad. This will take place in the capable hands of the sacrificing warriors of Islam in the very near future with the aid of the Almighty, God willing.

Arabic Talk

GF131943 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Unattributed talk]

[Excerpt] Contrary to norms and documents, a number of Arab regimes responded to the Iraqi rulers' call for holding an emergency conference of the foreign ministers to provide moral and financial support to that regime, which has been responsible for an evil war that has lasted more than 40 months. The response of those regimes to the Iraqi rulers' appeal for aid came as an encouragement to the inhuman practices which they are carrying out daily against the two fraternal Muslim peoples in Iran and Iraq, most recent of these practices was the use of internationally-banned chemical weapons.

While condemnation cables and denunciation letters were being sent to news agencies from everywhere, while the international community was denouncing the crime of using chemical weapons, and while the UN delegation was preparing to depart from New York for Tehran to explore the traces of the hostile crime, the rulers of Iraq, with the support of their allies in the political game, wanted to restore their political stance which was shaken following the international denunciation of their inhuman practices. Thus, the Baghdad regime began trying to strengthen its existence on the map through this weak conference, after its definite fate became the talk of the international press and all other information media.

The question which should be asked in this regard is: Will a conference of this kind be able to rescue the rulers of Iraq from the scaffold and help prevent the harsh punishment of these aggressors? Before answering this question, an important fact should be reiterated: There is no human value, regardless of its extent and level, which allows the oppressors to practice oppression and permits the aggressors to carry out hostility.

The Baghdad regime is known far and wide by its numerous and ugly crimes against the Muslim peoples in Iran and Iraq. It is not a secret to anyone that it was the one that waged the war against the Islamic Republic at a time when the Islamic Republic was busy rebuilding what was destroyed by the regime of the buried shah.

SAIRI Statement

LD131353 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, in connection with the extraordinary session of the Arab foreign ministers in Baghdad, issued a statement once again confirming its position. This statement said: Every time the army of Islam gains another victory in its battle with the blasphemous and hegemonist regime of Iraq, the enemies of God and the prophet go to that regime's assistance. This in itself shows that the aggression and war imposed by the Iraqi regime on the Islamic Republic of Iran is a great conspiracy in which all the oppressors and their mercenaries follow the same aim, that is, to topple the Islamic regime which threatens all satanic regimes throughout the world.

In keeping with the same aim, after the great victory of the forces of Islam in the Khaybar operations and the crushing blows they dealt to the infidel in Baghdad, the attacks by satanic and oppressive forces to save the regime of blasphemy and suppression from certain death have intensified more than ever. The meeting of the foreign ministers of the reactionary Arab countries at the invitation of Habib Chatti and the disintegrating regime of Saddam will take place in Baghdad.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, stressing its position, wishes to draw the attention of all those trying to save Saddam, especially those Arab countries gathered in Baghdad, to a few points:

First, Saddam's regime cannot be saved in any way and none of these forces and their doomed efforts will save him from being punished by divine justice. As Imam Khomeyni has said, Saddam is on the way out and all efforts to rush to help his regime will be useless and in vain, although the life of this regime might be lengthened a few days.

Secondly, participating in the extraordinary session of the Arab foreign ministers will, practically speaking, constitute support for Saddam's regime and animosity toward the Muslim people of Iraq who are under the yoke of this regime and are faced with mass slaughter, torture, homelessness, and violation of their honor by this regime. Also, taking part in this conference cannot be interpreted in any other way but heeding the order to enact the conspiracies of world arrogance which are trying to prevent Saddam's fall.

Thirdly, it would not be in the interests of Arab regimes who are caught in the trap of providing political, military, financial, and propaganda support for Saddam's regime, to continue their

support until the life of this regime ends, as we consider this cruel support an aggression against the Islamic Republic and our nation. This act will offer the necessary pretext ot the Iraqi nation and Islamic groups to take revenge against these aggressors and supporters of Saddam.

Also, because of our insight into the infidel Saddam's mentality, and his criminal nature, we caution the foreign ministers of Arab regimes that Saddam's regime might try to blow up or bomb the venue for the conference and then blame the Islamic Republic of Iran for it in the hope that by making the war an international issue — at a time when he feels the war is nearing its last stages — he will win.

Finally, we want to emphasize that despite all the commotion, he would not be able to stand against God, and the will of God Almighty is set on making the right victorious crush the wrong, the day is near when the banner of Islam will be hoisted in the land of the Tigris and Euphrates. Then, our nation will be harsh with those who stood against it during its days of suffering and assisted the oppressor Saddam in carrying out his crimes and in bringing about suffering and hardship to the nation.

Finnish Trade Delegation Arrives for Talks
LD051257 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 5 IRNA — Finland's Deputy Foreign Minister of Economic and Trade Affairs Ake Vithol arrived in Tehran this morning and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart Kazempur Ardabili at Mehrabad Airport.

The Finnish official who is heading a high ranking delegation comprising four of the ministry's officials and 309 representatives of trade firms to Iran told IRNA that the purpose of their visit was to review avenues for expanding economic and trade ties with Iran, further saying that during their stay they will discuss with Iranian officials the purchase of more oil and selling of industrial raw material and machinery by his country.

Kazempur Ardabili told IRNA that the Islamic Republic was prepared to establish economic and political ties with all countries in the world on the basis of securing Iran's need in any particular and specialised fields of industries and also provided such country did not intend to interfere in Iran's internal affairs.

He said also that Iran intends to establish relations with countries based on mutual respect and protection of interests of two sides.

He said that the Finnish delegation is due to assess the possibility of economic cooperation with Iran in various fields, as well as review in which technical and trade ties between the two countries could be expanded.

Kazempur Ardabili added that Iran presently has good political and economic relations with Finland and welcomes further expanding them based on mutual respect and interests.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official said too that the Islamic Republic was also prepared to establish such relations with small European and other Scandinavian countries in certain industrial fields and who respected the principle of not interferring in each other's internal affairs.

The Finnish delegation includes representatives from wood and paper industries, electronics, engineering, banks and construction who during their stay in Iran are scheduled to hold talks with Iranian officials of industries, heavy industries, oil, agriculture and plan and budget.

During 1983 Finland exported goods including machinery, wood and paper valued at 80 million dollars and imported from Iran oil valued 125 million dollars and also non-oil goods.

Meeting With Velayati
LD061936 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 6 IRNA — Finnish Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic and Trade Affairs Ake Wihtol met and conferred with the Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, here today.

The Iranian foreign minister pointed out to the Finnish visiting official that in its foreign relations the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned first and foremost with developing closer and firmer relations on a sound basis with non-aligned countries of Europe and elsewhere in world.

In response the Finnish official expressed pleasure with the expansion of economic ties between Finland and Iran. Velayati and the Finnish official also discussed topics on Iran's sale of oil and non-oil goods to Finland in exchange for agricultural equipment and other manufactured goods. They also exchanged views on how to adopt a uniform stand in relation with universal issues in international forums. Mr Ake Wihtol heads a Finnish delegation which arrived here yesterday.

Iran opened an embassy in Helsinki about a month ago.

Reportage on Turkish Foreign Minister's Visit
LD072124 Tehran IRNA in English 2100 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran March 7 IRNA — The Turkish Foreign Minister, Vahit Halefoglu, arrived here this evening heading a politico-economic delegation, for a two day visit. He was welcomed at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

In a talk with IRNA, Dr Velayati said that the Turkish minister's visit is taking place in reply to Velayati's earlier visit to the Muslim country of Turkey.

He stated that mutual relations between the two countries, especially economic cooperation will be discussed during the meetings of the Turkish delegation and Iranian ranking officials.

Meeting With Leaders

LD081811 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The Turkish foreign affairs minister who is touring our country at the head of a political-economic delegation this afternoon met President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. The meeting was also attended by our country's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the two nations' ambassadors.

During this meeting, the visiting Turkish foreign minister relayed to our country's president a message from the Turkish president. In his remarks, the Turkish foreign minister referred to the friendly and sincere ties between Iran and Turkey, and while expressing the hope for an ever-increasing growth of friendly ties, declared his country's willingness to expand such relations.

In reply, Mr Khamene'i expressed his gratitude for the Turkish president's greeting. He referred to the two nations' common culture and interlinked history: The fact that w are neighbors makes it possible for such deep friendship, and we also wish your nation success, progress, and prosperity. We also welcome expansion of our ties. Of course, our economic ties have been steadily increasing for the past few years and they provide a suitable ground for closer ties between our two countries.

At the conclusion of this meeting, the Turkish foreign minister conveyed to Mr Khamene'i the Turkish president's desire to meet him.

The Turkish foreign minister also met Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi before noon today. During this meeting, in which Mr Velayati was present, the Turkish foreign minister remarked on steps taken in our country after the revolution toward achieving the Iranian nation's interests and called for an expansion of ties.

In reply, Mr Musavi said the deep ties as a result of religion, culture, and history provide for such friendly and expanded relations between the two nations. He added: Our policy is to expand our ties in every field with countries of the Third World, especially those neighboring countries.

Talks With Velayati

GF081738 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA — The visiting Turkish foreign affairs minister, Vahit Halefoglu, in a meeting here today with his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, discussed expansion of mutual relations, developments in the region and major international issues.

During the meeting which was attended by ambassadors of both countries, Velayati thanked his Turkish counterpart for having chosen the Islamic Republic of Iran as the first country to visit.

Solid religious, historical and cultural ties between the two countries, added Velayati, called for a profound relation between the two nations. Our intention is to further increase our relations in all aspects with Third World countries and the Muslim countries in particular, he added.

The Turkish minister, who arrived here Wednesday night, said that following the Islamic Revolution of Iran, great strides have been taken in the Islamic Republic for furthering the interests of the Iranian people. We would like to have the best relations with you, the Turkish foreign minister said.

Meanwhile, the Turkish foreign minister and the accompanying delegation visited Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra cemetery and paid tribute to martyrs of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, martyrs Mohammad 'Ali Rajai'e, Ayatollah Mohammad Hoseyn Beheshti and Ayatollah Mohammad Javad Bahonar and also the martyrs of the Iraqi imposed war.

Session With Majlis Speaker

LD082238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Turkish Foreign Minsiter Vahit Halefoglu, who is leading an economic-political delegation, met with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani today.

Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: There are many indications that the stronger relations between Iran and Turkey are, the more useful the two countries can be for their nations and the region. The peoples of our two countries are Muslims and share similar conditions in the region; similarly, certain dangers threaten both countries.

He then said: Following the victory of the revolution, we hoped for sincere relations with all our neighbors and for cooperation with them; we still entertain this hope. Regrettably, the Iraqi Ba'thists have harmed this desire. Furthermore, great attempts are being made to harm our relations with other neighbors. Fortunately, these attempts have no great effect on our ties with you.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council then referred to certain matters concerning the imposed war. He said: The imposed war started at a time when we were not quite prepared to confront it. It was abundantly clear that America, the USSR, and the region's reactionaries were involved in this war. The enemy captured certain sectors of five provinces in our country; these provinces played an important role in our economy. If we had allowed Saddam to capitalize on this aggression in the region, then Iraq would have become a great danger for the region. We managed to drive out the enemy from our territories, apart from certain areas. Even under the present circumstances, if we allow Saddam to do what he wants to do, then he will pose a great threat to the freedom of the region.

Not only will he take the oil-producing Arab countries with him to the precipice, but he will become an agent to fulfill the Soviet Union's objectives. Consequently, it is our duty to solve the problem of the war in a way that will not create any difficulty for the region's countries. We believe that if a popular government is brought to power in Iraq — a government which is acceptable to its neighbors — then all the problems will be solved.

In light of the Iraqi problem, the problem of Afghanistan can also be solved. If this problem is not solved, then the difficulties in Afghanistan cannot be solved either. At present, the region's two important problems are Afghanistan and the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

As for the question of Lebanon, this is an older issue and it should, of course, be studied separately. If these two problems are solved, then the Arab countries, Iran, yourselves, and Pakistan can have more constructive cooperation with the region. Another advantage of this would be that if an Islamic government comes to power in Iraq, then the threat of communism will be kept at bay, as far as the region is concerned.

9 March Departure

LD091849 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Turkish minister of foreign affairs, who has been in Tehran at the head of a delegation since Wednesday evening, this afternoon left Tehran for Turkey. Vahit Halefoglu was seen off at Tehran airport by Mr Velayati and the two countries' ambassadors in Tehran and Ankara.

Before leaving Tehran, in an interview with a correspondent of the Central News Unit, he referred to the success of his trip and his meetings with responsible political officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Iran and Turkey have a long history of relations because of common interests and, for the same reason,the two nations have close links and both attach importance to their relations. We discussed this during our talks.

In connection with current relations, the Turkish foreign minister said: Iran and Turkey enjoy good relations and cooperation and there is a possibility of expanding these relations. For instance, in 1983, Iran held the leading position in Turkey's economy and by expanding relations and through further unity, the two countries can exchange their know-how and capabilities which would serve the interests of the two sides.

According to this report, the Turkish foreign minister denounced Iraq's use of chemical weapons in the Iraqi imposed war against Iran. The Turkish foreign minister said: No country and no one has the right to use chemical weapons in a war, and such weapons — and other weapons with similar effects — are banned. Their use is not right nor acceptable in accordance with the regulations agreed by everyone.

In connection with the Iraqi regime's attack on Turkish shipsin the Persian Gulf, Mr Halefoglu said: As I said, these things are unacceptable. These waterways and channels, which are trade routes between various countries, should be left free for normal traffic. As a result of this deed and the damage in flicted on the Turkish ship, two of its crew, unfortunately, died and Turkey is now investigating the matter.

After this, Foreign Minister Velayati spoke about the Turkish foreign minister's visit and the repercussions of the steps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to report the use of chemical weapons by Iraq in the war.

[Begin recording; Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Iran and Turkey have much in common. Because of this, the two countries have enjoyed close relations for quite a long time, that is to say, from the inception of the Ottoman regime up to the present. Needles to say, there have been instances in the course of history which resulted in the emergence of problems. However, this is to be expected between neighbors. Nevertheless, close and extensive ties have existed most of the time between the two countries. At present, relations between Iran and Turkey are good and are improving each year.

The new Turkish minister of foreign affairs — who was appointed to this post following recent elections, the appointment of a prime minister, and the formation of a new Cabinet — chose Iran for his first official visit within the framework of Turkey's relations with other countries. He held detailed talks on bilateral relations and regional and international issues. Moreover, the present visit also was aimed at preparing the ground for the forthcoming visit by the new Turkish prime minister, Mr Turgut Ozal. All in all, it was a positive and good trip.

[Correspondent] Apart from this, Iran has raised the use of chemical weapons by Iraq against the Islamic Republic in international organizations [words indistinct]. What are the latest steps taken by the Islamic Republic to prove this matter?

[Velayati] The latest step, repeated over recent days and weeks, was a request to the United Nations to send an expertsdelegation to study the results of chemical bombings by the Iraqi Government. Despite our repeated requests, delays have been experienced in this connection. However, the latest news is that the United Nations has agreed to send a mission.

Generally speaking, what we managed to do at the disarmament conference was used as evidence by some delegations, particularly the representatives of European countries which saw the damage caused by the use of chemical bombs during past wars. As a result, they declared their readiness to the Islamic Republic's permanent representative at the European office of the United Nations to extend all kinds of cooperation to the Islamic Republic to prevent the exacerbation of this diabolical act and to put a stop to it as soon as possible. They also announced that they will exert immediate efforts to condemn the Iraqi regime which made use of these weapons. All in all, world public opinion condemns Iraq for resorting to such actions. [end recording]

Bulgarian Transport Minister Leaves 9 March

GF091714 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA — The Bulgarian transport minister, Mr. Vasil Tsanov, and his 8-man delegation left Tehran today after five days of talks with Iranian transportation officials.

Roads and Transportation Minister Mr. Mohammad Hadi Nejad-Hoseynian and a number of his deputies were at Mehrabad Airport (?to see off) the Bulgarian delegation.